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AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
43, Buckingham Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks.

28th June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics of the district for the year 1956.

Incorporated in the report is that of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Cant.

During the year under review, the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, through its Mass Radiography Service, carried out surveys at Haddenham, Grendon Underwood, Stone and Westcott. Two of these were at factories and two at Institutions, details of their findings are contained in the report.

There was a marked diminution in the total of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with the previous year. The numbers of the commoner infectious diseases, such as Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, were much less.

Four cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified and all were admitted to hospital. All recovered, one completely, two with slight paralysis, and the other with a paralysis of a more severe type. Vaccination against the disease was made available through the Bucks County Council to selected groups of children.

With the exception of five cases of dysentery, 4 of a mild type, no case of notifiable Enteric Fever occurred, and no case of Food Poisoning was notified.

Under the National Assistance Amendment ~~Act~~, 1951, one old person was removed to hospital as her house was in imminent danger of collapse.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council, particularly the members of the Public Health Committee, and to record my appreciation of the work of the staff, especially those of the Public Health Department who have contributed in such great measure to this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T.C. SIMS-ROBERTS, M.B., CH.B.,
M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P.
D.P.H.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Area of the District ..... 89,613 acres

(b) Total Population (Estimated mid-1956) 32,080

(c) Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956, according to Rate Book) 8,995

(d) Rateable Value £287,053

(e) Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..... £ 1,250

UNEMPLOYED

At 31st December, 1955	At 31st December, 1956
34 women	35 women
30 men	40 men
64	75

VITAL STATISTICS

	1955			1956		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Live Births - Legitimate	462	228	234	451	215	236
Illegitimate	17	9	8	33	15	18
Still Births - Legitimate	10	6	4	5	3	2

	1955	1956
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	15.0	15.1
Birth Rate (Corrected).....	16.6	16.8
Rate per 1,000 total (live & Still) Births...	15.3	15.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.0	15.7

DEATHS

1955			1956		
Total	M	F	Total	M	F
342	187	155	358	191	167

	1955	1956
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	10.7	11.2
Standardised Death Rate	10.1	9.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7	11.7

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	1955			1956		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Legitimate	7	5	2	3	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	3	1	2

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate	6	5	1	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	2	1	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age

	1955	1956
All infants per 1,000 live births	14.6	12.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.1	6.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	----	90.9

Deaths from Cancer 52

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

Disease	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	8	12
" " Lung, bronchus...	10	1	11
" " breast	-	3	3
" " uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	10	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	3	5
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	19	44
Coronary disease, angina	32	22	54
Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9
Other heart disease	23	37	60
Other circulatory disease	11	7	18
Influenza	1	4	5
Pneumonia	20	14	34
Bronchitis	10	7	17
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	3	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	10	21
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	5	7
Suicide	5	1	6
Homicide	-	1	1

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

Disease	1955 No. of Cases Notified	1955 No. of Deaths	1956 No. of Cases Notified	1956 No. of Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	459	-	83	-
Whooping Cough ...	27	-	19	-
Scarlet Fever ...	15	-	7	-
Pneumonia	19	22	10	34
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	3	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-
Diphteria	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	17	-	4	-
Dysentery	18	-	5	-
Para-Typhoid ...	-	-	-	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-
	556	22	132	34

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Respiratory M	New Cases Respiratory F	New Cases Non-Respiratory M	New Cases Non-Respiratory F	Deaths Respiratory M	Deaths Respiratory F	Deaths Non-Respiratory M	Deaths Non-Respiratory F
0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	6	-	3	-	2	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals

Hospital accommodation for the District is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

These three hospitals are administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

Cases are admitted to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, if bed space is unavailable at the above. Similarly, infectious disease cases are admitted to infectious disease hospitals within the Oxford region when there is no accommodation locally.

Pathological Specimens.

The majority of specimens for examination are submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised whenever necessary.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance services in the area are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. Six ambulances are stationed in the Borough of Aylesbury for the use of the town and surrounding district, and 1 utilicon and 4 sitting cars.

Maternity and Child Welfare

This service is controlled by the Bucks County Council. Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Aylesbury, Brill, Long Crendon, Waddesdon, Quainton, Haddenham, Wendover, Whitchurch, Worminghall, Aston Clinton, Dinton, Halton, Stone, and Mobile Welfare Centres at Cuddington, Grendon Underwood and Westcott.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough immunisation and Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The Bucks County Council, being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act, 1946, administer these services.

Treatment of Veneral Disease

A veneral disease clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

HADDENHAM - FIRST SURVEY.

30th August, 1956. Held at Aylesbury and Thame Airport.

Response: Firms 64%

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	223	149	372
No. recalled for large films.....	9	2	11
No. recalled for clinical examination...	1	1	2
No. referred to chest clinic.....	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.....	64	33	97
No. not previously examined by M.M.R....	159	116	275

RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Bronchiectasis.....	-	1	1
Normal.....	1	-	1
	1	1	2

WESTCOTT - THIRD SURVEY

26th - 27th June, 1956. Held at R.A.E./R.P.D., Westcott, Bucks.

Response: RAE/RPD 68%
Schools 100%

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	820	185	1,005
No. of large films taken.....	18	2	20
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	5	1	6
No. referred to chest clinic.....	2	1	3
No. previously examined by M.M.R.....	587	113	700
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.....	233	72	305
RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision.....	2	-	2
Pneumonitis.....	-	1	1
	2	1	3
RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.....	1	-	1
Post-infective fibrosis.....	1	-	1
Aortic regurgitation.....	1	-	1
	3	-	3

SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED CASES OF SIGNIFICANT TUBERCULOSIS FOUND IN THE WESTCOTT THIRD SURVEY.

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.	Rate per Thousand	Inactive P.T.	Rate per Thousand
RAE/RPD	721	-		2	
Schools	80	-		-	
General Public	111	-		-	
National Service Intakes	93	-		-	
TOTAL	1,005	-		2	1.99

ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT

ROCKET PROPULSION DEPARTMENT

THIRD SURVEY

26th - 27th June, 1956.

Response: 68%

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	654	67	721
No. recalled for large films.....	17	-	17
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	5	-	5
No. referred to chest clinic.....	2	-	2
RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring occasional observation.....	2	-	2
RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.....	1	-	1
Post-infective fibrosis.....	1	-	1
Aortic regurgitation.....	1	-	1
	3	-	3

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, STONE.

THIRD SURVEY

7th - 10th May, 1956.

SURVEY OF PATIENTS

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	358	423	781
No. recalled for large films.....	22	13	35
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	9	7	16
No. referred to chest physician.....	4	3	7
RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST PHYSICIAN			
Tuberculosis:-			
Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment.....	2	-	2
(These were previously known cases: 1 had a positive sputum; 1 had a previous M.M.R. examination revealing active pulmonary tuberculosis; 1 had a previous satisfactory M.M.R.)			
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis but requiring occasional supervision.....	2	1	3
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring no further action.....	-	2	2
	4	3	7
RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST PHYSICIAN			
Tuberculosis:-			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.....	2	-	1
Non-Tuberculous Conditions:-			
Congenital agenesis of ribs.....	-	1	1
Chronic bronchitis.....	2	1	3
Acquired abnormalities of heart vessels.....	2	1	3
Normal.....	-	1	1
	5	4	9

Survey of Staff, etc. /Continued.....

SURVEY OF STAFF AND DEPENDANTS

Staff Response: 58%

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	112	114	226
No. recalled for large films.....	1	2	3
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	1	-	1
No. referred to chest clinic.....	-	-	-

RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC

Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.....	1	-	1

SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED CASES OF SIGNIFICANT TUBERCULOSIS FOUND IN THE ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL THIRD SURVEY

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.B.	Rate per Thousand	Inactive P.T.B.	Rate p Thousa
Patients.....	781	-		1	
Staff and Dependants	226	-		-	
TOTAL.....	1,007	-		1	.99

H.M. PRISON, GRENDON HALL,
GRENDON UNDERWOOD, BUCKS.

SECOND SURVEY

25th June, 1956

SUMMARY OF WORK	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	110	6	116
No. recalled for large films.....	5	-	5
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	-	-	-
No. referred to chest clinic.....	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.....	33	3	36
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.....	77	3	80

SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED CASES
OF SIGNIFICANT TUBERCULOSIS FOUND
IN THE GRENDON HALL SECOND SURVEY

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.B.	Inactive P.T.B.
Prisoners.....	98	-	-
Staff and families.....	15	-	-
General Public.....	3	-	-
TOTAL.....	116	-	-

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
43, Buckingham Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks.

October, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I have the honour to report on the work of the Inspector's branch of the Department for the year 1956.

HOUSING

Substantial progress was made with the survey of properties included in the Slum Clearance Programme. In addition to the inspections and subsequent reports, this programme has included many interviews with owners of properties and discussions on schemes of reconstruction, together with examination of specifications and estimates. Your Officers have been very ready to help owners in this respect which accounts in large measure for the ease with which the representations have been dealt with.

With the possibility of Improvement Grants being available, and the change in legislation which permits reconditioning even in cases where Demolition Orders are operative, very careful consideration and often lengthy negotiations are necessary to produce satisfactory proposals for the Council's approval.

Mr. F. Lee commenced work as Temporary Housing Inspector in April and the following schedule sets out the position at the end of the year :-

Slum Clearance Programme:

Work carried out in year 1956

Number of properties inspected	168
Number of representations made to the Local Authority	108
Number of applications deleted from list on inspection	4
Number of houses made fit informally	6
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	61
Number of houses demolished	3
Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted to carry out works	9
Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted not to re-let	4
Number of houses made fit informally	1

Work has also proceeded on routine Housing inspections. 65 properties are recorded as being rendered fit, mainly as the result of informal action.

During the year 253 new dwellings were erected, of which 67 were Council houses, bringing the Council's Post-War total to 1,260 properties.

Improvement Grants

77 applications for Grants were received, 67 being approved. The Grants were 50% of the "approved expense" in each case, totalling £16,956. 19s. 10d. for the year. Of the cases approved for Grant 27 were in respect of owner-occupied properties.

Grant Applications for 1956

Parish	Approved	Rejected	Withdrawn	Completed
Aston Clinton	1	1	-	4
Bierton-with-Broughton	-	-	-	1
Boarstall	-	-	-	1
Brill	3	-	-	4
Chearsley	1	-	-	2
Chilton	1	-	-	2
Cuddington	6	-	-	1
Dinton-with-Ford-and-Upton	9	-	-	2
Fleet Marston	3	-	-	5
Grendon Underwood	-	1	-	-
Haddenham	5	-	-	6
Halton	-	1	-	-
Ickford	3	-	-	-
Kingsey	2	-	-	2
Long Crendon	1	-	-	1
Ludgershall	1	-	-	1
Oakley	2	-	-	1
Oving	-	-	1	1
Quainton	14	2	1	6
Quarrendon	-	-	-	1
Shabbington	-	1	-	1
Waddesdon	1	-	-	1
Weedon	2	-	-	-
Wendover	2	1	-	8
Weston Turville	2	1	-	2
Whitchurch	-	-	-	1
Winchendon Upper & Lower	1	-	-	1
Worminghall	6	-	-	3
Wotton Underwood	1	-	-	-
Totals:	67	8	2	58

The complete summary of applications received since the inception of the scheme up to 31st December, 1956 is as follows:-

Total amount of Grants approved = £36,365. 11s. 6d.

No. of properties covered by applications received:-

Approved	165
Refused	21
Withdrawn	8
In abeyance	1
Total No. of applications =	195

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with your officers before submitting applications which, in addition to avoiding subsequent amendments and alteration of plans, often result in improved standards of internal planning and more effective schemes. The quite considerable amount of time which this work absorbed has generally been well repaid by the results ultimately achieved.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued during 1956.

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

In July new Byelaws were adopted for the control of slaughterhouses. Seven private premises continued in use during the year. Your Officers maintained 100% inspections of all meat slaughtered. The time and travelling involved in this work is considerable but the Department takes pride in maintaining complete inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	218	30	19	1049	695	-
Number inspected	218	30	19	1049	695	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	2	-	24	36	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.81	6.66	-	2.38	5.47	-

Tuberculosis, etc. /Cont'd over.....

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	4	-	-	27	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.29	13.33	-	-	3.89	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.46	-	-	-	-	-

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	541
Total number of carcases inspected	2,011
Total weight of meat condemned	2,117 lbs.
Number of licensed slaughtermen	13

Other Foods

Eleven new registrations for the sale of Ice Cream were approved all for the pre-packed article.

The licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized milk issued during the year were as follows:-

Dealer's Licences	10
Supplementary Licences	7

Food Premises

The majority of premises in the rural area are comparatively small and for the most part inspection revealed a fair standard of hygiene with a few cases requiring special attention. One outstandi case resulted in proceedings being taken against the occupier of a bakehouse under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-6, penalties of £40 and costs being imposed. Continuing offences necessitated further proceedings which resulted in the business being discontinued

Schedule of Food Premises:-

Grocers	85
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Sugar Confectioners	12
Butchers and Poulterers	20
Fish and Chip Shops	4
Fruit and Vegetable Shops	5
Cafe's and Restaurants	21
Canteens	33
Public Houses	98
Total... ...	287

WATER SUPPLY

The Bucks Water Board provides a mains water supply throughout the area, with the exception of Lower Winchendon, which still depends on local springs.

The old Muswell Hill supply continues to serve a few farms and properties in parts of Brill and Wotton Underwood. Both these local supplies are subjected to periodical analyses with satisfactory results.

The water main extension to the hamlet of Sedrup Green was finally carried out during the year, at a cost of £490, the Council making a contribution of £105. 0s. 0d.

There are now very few cases such as this remaining apart from single isolated properties, although one area on the outskirts of Oakley was again the subject of unavailing efforts to obtain a main extension.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As the major part of the Quainton Sewage Disposal Scheme was in operation by the end of 1955, and the Hardwick and Weedon Scheme continued to suffer delays owing to difficulty in acquiring the site and access thereto, it is unfortunately not possible to report the completion or even commencement of a new scheme. This does not mean, however, that there was any lack of activity in this field.

Grendon Underwood

In March a Public Inquiry was held on the proposed Grendon Underwood scheme, the subsequent Report being most disappointing. A Deputation from this Council interviewed Ministry officials on the subject in August to seek further information on the Ministry's objection to acceptance of farm waste and to contest the suggestion that a number of small plants could cope with the problem at Grendon Underwood. Unfortunately, very little information was obtained then or subsequently on the treatment of farm waste beyond the insistence that special contributions should be made towards the cost of sewerage by farmers wishing to use the public sewers. Whilst there may be some merit in this view, I fear that the public generally will suffer in that progress towards essential sanitary improvements is bound to be repeatedly /Contd

delayed whilst the inevitable arguments are pursued to very little purpose. If large sums of public money are to be spent in providing modern sanitation, their effectiveness, I suggest, should not be jeopardised by insistence on what, after all, will only be relatively small contributions, if they can be obtained.

At the end of the year there was no sign of any progress being made.

Chilton

In January it was decided to make urgent application for permiss to deal with the sewerage of Chilton to remove a particularly dangero nuisance in the vicinity of the School and School Canteen. No indication of a Public Inquiry being held was to hand at the end of the year.

Dinton

The position regarding the outfall at Boot Lane became more acut when the Licence permitting the Council to discharge effluent over private land was terminated in August. An extension for 6 months wa negotiated on the understanding that special efforts would be made to secure approval to at least an interim scheme to deal with this outfa

Shabbington

The old disposal site, with the growth of the village, has becom quite inadequate to deal with the sewage by broad irrigation. Durin the year, severe pollution occurred on a number of occasions and complaints were received from the Thames Conservancy. Instructions were given for preparation by Consulting Engineers of a scheme for a full treatment plant.

Aston Clinton, Weston Turville & Buckland Joint Disposal Works

Although the proposed extension to these works was considered ve urgent, and marked for some priority, no progress was made during the year.

Wendover Disposal Works

The Consulting Engineers submitted a scheme for extending these works, which was still under consideration at the close of the year.

Westcott Scheme

Negotiations with the Ministry of Supply were proceeding regardi treatment costs per house to be connected to their sewerage system.

Long Crendon

A site for the Lower End Pumping Station was found and agreed with the owner of the land

Maintenance Work, Extensions, etc.

In the course of the year the following works were carried out:-

Stoneview, Oving:	Cesspool converted to septic tank and effluent conveyed to Disposal Site for broad irrigation. Total cost = £233. 8s. 8d.
Whitchurch Sewerage:	Extension of sewer in Oving Road for 5 new bungalows. £258. 0s. 9d.
Brae Hill Housing Estate, Brill:	New Pumping Station and rising main to lift sewage up to public sewer. £545. 0s. 0d.
Bierton Sewerage:	Rowsham Road Sewer Extension. £611. 0s. 5d.
Ludgershall:	Piping open sewer ditch. £132. 12s. 0d.
Haddenham Sewage Disposal Site:	Extensive maintenance work on land irrigation area, with own labour and hired plant.

Details were prepared for the following but work was not in hand before the end of the year:-

Whitchurch Sewage Disposal:	Transfer of filter effluent to new site for final land treatment.
Aston Clinton Joint Sewage Disposal:	Alterations to sludge pumping station and installation of new pump.

There was a significant increase in the number of obstructed sewers, particularly in the older systems. It is clear that within the near future some expenditure will have to be incurred in removing silt, etc. from the more vulnerable sections. Towards the end of the year, evidence of root penetration on a fairly extensive scale in the outfall sewer at Whitchurch was discovered. It was decided to defer opening up the sewer until a more favourable time of the year, so that Contractors would have the benefit of longer hours of daylight and better weather.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council employs 44 manual workers and of these 20 are engaged on Refuse collection and 10 on Cesspool emptying.

The labour situation was considerably easier than in previous years and little trouble was experienced in filling occasional vacancies. Absences from all causes during the year totalled 1,053½ man-days, equivalent to 4 men full-time.

The refuse collection service was strengthened during the year by the addition of another Dennis "Paxit" powered by a diesel engine. This machine was delivered in September, permitting the old Dennis Side Loader to revert to work on outlying areas, collection of salvage and relief work. The team now comprises 4 "Paxits" and 1 Side Loader.

Very few complaints were received regarding collection of refuse, and at the end of the year some 15% of the District was receiving a weekly service, and a large part of the remainder was being covered at approximately 10-day intervals.

The dust-bin hire service continued to expand, there being 1,333 bins out on hire at the end of the year. This service has been greatl appreciated and undoubtedly is a considerable aid to economic and efficient collection. The bins are hired for 5/- per year.

The 4 "Paxits" and 1 Side Loader travelled 40,411 miles during th year, collecting 1,626 loads of refuse, estimated (according to test weighings) to weigh 6,336 tons.

Figures for year 1956/7 relating to this District supplied to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the Annual Public Cleansi Costing Return are as follows:-

Collection and Disposal

Nett cost per 1,000 population	... ...	£546. 0. 0.
" " " 1,000 premises	... ...	£1,942. 0. 0.

These figures include Capital Expenditure totalling £4,526 on the new vehicle and part cost of new Depot.

Hartwell Disposal Site

Plans were approved for the much-needed new Depot and work was in hand on the Garages at the end of the year.

Good progress was maintained in dealing safely and satisfactorily with the water-filled pits on the tip. One man driving the Chaseside continues to control the tip and dispose of almost 100% of the refuse collected in the entire district.

Salvage

The amount of salvage sold during the year showed a considerable improvement over the previous twelve months, £353 being received as against £133 the year before. This figure could be appreciably improv upon if labour was available for baling.

Cesspool and Pail Emptying Service

Cesspool emptying is carried out with 5 Dennis machines. The service is generally on the basis of one emptying every 2 months.

There are still 1,088 pail closets in the area which are cleansed weekly. Wherever possible the changeover to water closets is effected but the lack of new sewerage schemes makes this work very slow and cos

In the course of the year, the 5 vehicles again covered over 50,000 miles, removing and disposing of 6,574 loads of sewage.

Disposal continues to be a major problem in this service. A few sites, widely scattered, have to suffice for the whole area, at a high cost in time, and also where sewage works are used, in working efficie

Special Work

When possible, requests are met for special service by Cesspool emptiers at a set scale of charges. Income for the year amounted to £119. 8s. 9d.

NEW BUILDINGS

During the year 486 plans were received, examined and reported upon.

These are summarised below:-

Building Byelaws - Town & Country Planning Act

Dwelling Houses				
New	68	for	101	houses
Layout plans	2	for	46	houses
Outline applications	114			
Conversions	6			
Alterations and Additions	81			
No. of Private Enterprise Dwellinghouses completed	186			
Industrial				
New Factories and Workshops	3			
Alterations and Additions to Factories and Workshops	7			
Outline applications	6			
Miscellaneous				
Agricultural Buildings	14			
Private Garages	90			
Caravans	25			
Others	61			

There was a marked increase in the number of buildings completed during the year, particularly private dwelling-houses where the total was 186 against the previous year's figure of 113. Inspections of building work in progress are also considerably higher at 1,569.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

A total of 82 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Inspections under this Act are carried out by one full-time operator who also undertakes treatment work for private houses. Inspections of all types of premises totalled 637 and treatment was carried out in 129 cases.

When circumstances permit, treatment at business premises is undertaken and charged for, otherwise the service is free.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

	1955
New Buildings	1,569
Dangerous Buildings	40
Ditches	26
Drain Tests	313
Drainage	664
Factories	17
Food Premises and Food Inspection	194
Housing Act, 1936	552
Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949 ...	541
Infestation and Infectious Disease ...	28
Levelling	37
Milk Regulations	24
Miscellaneous	280
Movable Dwellings	86
Nuisances	131
Petroleum Acts	37
Public Health Act	201
Refuse Collection and Scavenging	164
Rodent Control	637
Sanitary Surveys	6
Sewage Works	255
Sewerage	298
Slaughterhouses	541
Water Supply	80
Water Samples	18

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

STAFF

In April Mr. F. Lee was transferred to the Department to deal wi Housing surveys under the Slum Clearance Programme.

Mr. M. Davies, Shorthand-Typist, resigned in October to emigrate to Canada and the post was filled by Mr. M. Ramsden who joined this Department on 1st October.

Mr. R.J. Harrison was appointed as Junior Clerk in December after Mr. G. Jennings had left the Council's service.

I should like to record my sincere thanks to the staff, not only for the amount of work they do, but for the happy and harmonious spir which prevails at all times.

In conclusion I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, for the help, co-operation and active assistance which so often smooths the difficulties encountered by your officers.

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. CANT

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor